THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the communications received in March and April, 1989 the Government of West Bengal have referred to land subsidence and the need for prevention of environmental damage arising out of opencast coal mining in Raniganj Coalfield.

The Ramjibanpur pilot project for controlling subsidence holds promise for application on a larger scale. ECL have initiated action for preparation of an action plan.

The Department of Coal had constituted an Expert Committee for preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for Raniganj coalfield. The Group has suggested various measures for environmental protection.

Statement of the Chairman, BHEL regarding its capacity utilisation

1503. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that the Chairman of BHEL, Mr. P. S. Gupta, has made a statement that BHEL will work to only 37 per cent capacity during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) In a Press Conference held by the Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL, on 1.4.1989 highlighting the performance of BHEL during 1988-89, such as, turnover profit, etc. he had also mentioned about the order book position of BHEL in the 8th Plan period based on the orders in hand.

The capacity utilisation of BHEL for the manufacture of power generation equipment is fairly satisfactory during the current year. The capacity utilisation of BHEL for the 8th Plan projects is under constant review by the Government in order to ensure that the manufacturing facilities available with the Company are adequately utilised.

Development of a safety device to guard men and machines from fuel container explosion

1504. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pune-based company M/s. Firma Exco has developed a safety device to guard men and machines from fuel container explosions that may occur due to cumbustion or fire;

(b) whether the said device can be easily installed inside any fuel container, car petrol tank, aircrafts, gas cyclinders etc., and even in the currently used containers;

(c) whether Government have since going through the functioning of the said device; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) M/s. Firma Exco India Pvt. Ltd., Pune have been granted foreign collaboration with M/s. Zenith Industrieanlagenbau Ges.m.b.H., Austria for manufacture of explosion control apparatus and filler bodies for combustible fuel in the small scale sector in December 1987. The said device, it is claimed, can either be installed at the time of construction of fuel storage tankers or insertion filled as in motor vehicle fuel tanks. With the use of

these filler bodies, the possible explosion of fuel tank is prevented. The foreign collaboration was approved only in December, 1987. No report has so far been received about the implementation of the project or about the functioning of the device.

Working of C-DOT Technology

1505. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C-DOT has not been able to complete its task within the schedule agreed upon;

(b) whether C-DOT claims to have developed technology for a different telephone exchange than the one originally scheduled;

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred on C-DOT since its formation;

(d) whether any complaints have been received from scientific community and others about the working of C-DOT; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. C-DOT has developed small capacity Rural Automatic Exchange for use in villages and Private Automatic Branch Exchange for Urban applications.

(c) The total expenditure incurred by C-DOT on Electronic Switching System Project up to 31-3-1989 is Rs. 53.5 crores.

(d) and (e) Some press reports criticising the delay in completion of the project have appeared. Such delays are not unexpected in such R&D Projects.

Indigenous production of Paraxylene

1506. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous production of Paraxylene is likely to be increased in the near future;

(b) if so, what is the present production and likely increase projected;

(c) whether imports of Paraxylene will also be stopped; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The production of Paraxylene in 1988 was around 30,000 tonnes. With the completion of projects under implementation, the production capacity for Paraxylene will increase to around 1,45,000 TPA. However, even thereafter, there will be gap between demand and domestic availability which shall have to be covered through imports.

Proposal of Tamil Nadu Petrochemical Products Limited

1507. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have cleared the proposal of Tamil Nadu Petrochemical Products Limited for manufacturing Linear Alkyl Benzen at Manali in Chingleput District;

(b) what is the total amount of investment involved in setting up of the project; and

(c) whether SPIC has contributed huge shares in setting up of this industry?